- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

EPORT NO. OO

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. G-162 **CASE** 2860

DATE DISTR. 305001949

COUNTRY

SUBJECT

Albania

Personal and Financial Status of Ex-King Zog

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS.

DATE

ACQUIRED BY SOURCE mid-Sep 49

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

GRADING OF SOURCE BY OFFICE OF ORIGIN A SOURCE'S OPINION OF CONTE									ONTENT		
COMPLETELY RELIABLE		PAIRLI	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE		CANNOT BE JUDGED	TRUE	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
Α.	В.	c.	D.	E.	F. X	1.	2. X	3.	4.	5.	6.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Successful lawyer, aged 38, associated with a prominent US law firm. Through family connections, he is close to ex-King Zog and acts as his US legal representative.

- 1. Ex-King Zog's assets include:
 - (a) US\$108 thousand at the National City Bank, New York.

Approximately US\$5,000 at the Guarentee Trust Company. (b)

(c) A palace and land in Alexandria, Egypt, valued at I 40 thousand Egyptian.

(d) Albanian crown jewels, worth approximately US\$100 thousand, possibly more.
(e) About US\$450 thousand left of the US\$3 million in gold louis which Zog took with him from Albania to Egypt.

- Zeg has the moral liability to support his wife's grandmother at the rate of US\$115 per month. He has no other liabilities in the US that I know of. Elsewhere, he has the responsibility of taking care of his wife's four sisters and his brother, John Appenyi, who is in a tuberculosis sanitarium in Sicily. Beyond these obligations, I do not think that Zog owes any money. His close friend, King Farouk, would not let him get into debt in Egypt.
- 3. Zog has no source of income in the US except the interest from his cash balance. I do not think he receives any support from the Albanians in the US or in Albania.
- The only regular payments which Zog is required to make are those to his wife's grandmother. These payments are made every two or three months.
- 5. Zog has not made any large withdrawals or deposits in his bank account since April 1949. SOTIA
- 6. Within Zog's establishment, his financial affairs are supervised by his Prime Minister and Body Guard, American Martini. Martini seldom leaves his side and supervises all court business. Zog's black market operations are handled by Count Alexander de Villa. Zog does a lot of managing himself; and his wife, Geraldine, does all of his translating.
- 7. I am the only one in my firm who handles Zog's affairs. Most of my communication with Zog is done by letter to Geraldine, never to Zog direct. Urgent matters are handled direct by cable. Couriers are never used although I have set up a system which can be used in an emergency.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIBENCE ABENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828 NAZI WAR CRIMES OF SCLOSURE ACT **BATE 2007**

CHASSIFICATION SECRET / US OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE NAVY	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION	
ARMY	FBI			
	1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	7		

8. Zog's only active contacts in the US are his wife's grandmother, my wife, myself, and Joseph Blackburn who is married to Virginie, a sister of Geraldine's. My opinion of Blackburn is that he is an indiscreet sap. In a recent letter from Geraldine to her grandmother, she said that Zog was strongly opposed to the Albanian group or groups who are presently in the US. An excerpt of this letter follows:

"My husband is much too preoccupied, poor darling, for any social duties. Things are, as perhaps you have noticed, anything but bright and then it gets him down that the powers will not listen to him or use him and have formed a certain Albanian Committee which does not represent any of the Albanians - just some instruments who are already squabbling among themselves. They are going, however, to Washington and perhaps it is something that Albania is represented no matter how badly. It could have meant the outbreak of war the trouble there, the last three weeks, but it won't as the Russians showed much too strong a front on the other side. Financially too we have achieved nothing."

In this connection, I believe that Zog can be brought into more friendly liaison with the group or committee referred to in Geraldine's letter.

- 9. Zog's legal representatives abroad are not known to me. I am aware that he has a lawyer in Alexandria who scrutinizes all the legal papers I prepare for Zog, but I do not know the lawyer's name.
- 10. Neither my firm nor I have contacts in Albania but I believe that Zog has constant contact with the Albanian underground. Georges Gog, who runs Zog's palace police, is able to go back and forth to Albania. Members of the underground frequently get out of Albania to Egypt.
- 11. Undoubtedly the current regime in Albania has a claim against Zog for taking out the US\$3 million of gold which the Albanians probably contend is State money. Zog maintains that spending this money for the maintenance of his court-in-exile is quite proper. There is only US\$450 thousand left. No one seems to understand the real status of this situation, legal or otherwise.
- 12. Geraldine, Zog's wife, is completely devoted to him in spite of his personal indiscretions.
- 13. The Countess Margaret Sherr-Thess is one of Geraldine's cousins and the daughter of Geraldine's foster mother. Margaret's father was the chief of the German military intelligence in World War I and is not living at Klagenfurt, Austria. Her mother was an American and was forced to commit suicide by the Gestape in World War II. Margaret is a fine girl but cannot help talking about anything she knows. Her brothers, both US citizens, are even more indiscreet.
- 14. Geraldine's grandmother, Madame de Strahl d'Ekna, aged 82, is living in the US. She does not have much influence over Zog but is continually intriguing to get him and Geraldine to come to the US. She has a vivid imagination and has just written a book on Zog which she wants to sell to the movies.
- 15. Zog's sister, Zenida, is a moronic woman who has tremendous influence over her brother. Zog and Zenida are now having an incestuous affair about which Geraldine knows.
- 16. Count Alexander de Villa, nickname "Skander," is Zog's black market operator. He is reputed to have been brought into the court to entertain Geraldine while Zog was preoccupied with Zenida. De Villa is half French and half Albanian; his father was Albanian Minister to France. He is a shrewd individual and entirely crooked. In former years, he used to smuggle dope to France in the diplomatic pouch. He is a close friend of Farouk and is trying to arrange with him to get the remaining US\$450 thousand of Zog's gold out of Egypt.
- 17. Georges Gog is Zog's chief palace guard, the security man. He is a clean-cut (as Albanians go), good-looking, military individual and relatively honest. He gets back and forth to Albania and maintains contact with the underground.

SECRET / US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 18. Kemal Bey Messari is the court chamberlain. He wears a monacle, likes sports clothes, and acts as a spy for Zog. When I first went to visit Zog, Messari watched me and listened to my conversation in the hotel lobby for two hours before introducing himself and taking me to the palace.
- 19. Zog's plans for the future include taking a house in France in the summer 1950 and returning to Alexandria for the winter. His one idea is to get back to Albania and evict the Soviets. He wants US material and military advice but thinks that he can raise enough Arab man power to form his own army. (He is very close to Farouk and Ibn Saud.) Zog loves the military angle and would discuss military matters more freely with an army officer of the rank of colonel or higher. If Zog is to be effective, he should be separated from his female influence and made to think that he is heading up some military project towards the liberation of Albania. He has told me that he would fight for Albania and return in any capacity in which his people wanted him. He further has said that he would submit to a plebiscite and would bow out if defeated.

- end -

SECRET / US OFFICIALS ONLY